

Tetsuya KAGAWA, S.N. 09/881,402
Page 40

Dkt. No. 2271/65101

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 2, 2007. Claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 19-21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 41-43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61, 63-65 and 82-105 were pending, with claims 1-7, 10-12, 15, 16, 18, 22-29, 32-34, 37, 38, 40, 44-51, 54-56, 59, 60, 62 and 66-81 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, new claims 106-108 have been added, and claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61 and 65 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Support for new claim 106 may be found in, for example, page 28, line 25 to page 29, line 4. Support for new claim 107 may be found in, for example, page 30, lines 4-13. Support for new claim 108 may be found in, for example, page 25, lines 5-10, of the application as filed. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the application at, for example, page 18, lines 18-22.

Accordingly, claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 19-21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 41-43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61, 63-65 and 82-108 are now pending, with claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61, 65, 82, 84-87, 89, 90, 92-95, 97, 98, 100-103 and 105 being in independent form.

Claims 98 and 100 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as purportedly indefinite. The Office Actions states that the claim term "said communications capability" in lines 12 and 13 of each of claims 98 and 100 did not have antecedent basis in the claims.

Applicant respectfully points out that "said communications capability" in lines 12 and 13 of each of claims 98 and 100 has antecedent basis in the recitation of "registering...a communications capability of a transfer communications machine" in lines 3 and 4 of claims 98 and 100, respectively.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is requested.

Tetsuya KAGAWA, S.N. 09/881,402
Page 41

Dkt. No. 2271/65101

Claims 8, 9, 30, 31, 52, 53, 82, 84, 90, 92, 98 and 100 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,940,615 to Shima in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,966 to Toyoda (hereinafter, Toyoda '966). Claims 13, 14, 35, 36, 57, 58, 85, 86, 93, 94, 101 and 102 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being purportedly unpatentable over Shima in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,816,911 to Toyoda et al. (hereinafter, Toyoda '911). Claims 17, 20, 39, 42, 61, 64, 87, 88, 95, 96, 103 and 104 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being purportedly unpatentable over Shima in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,493,103 to Toyoda et al. (hereinafter, Toyoda '103). Claims 21, 43, 65, 89, 97 and 105 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being purportedly unpatentable over Shima in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,285,844 to Kuga.

Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable over Shima (the primary reference cited in the Office Action) and the other cited references, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to data communications (for example, facsimile communications) in which a communication terminal apparatus can use the communication functions (such as color printing functions) of other terminals. For example, a communications terminal apparatus can have a communications mechanism for performing communications with a plurality of communications machines including a sending communications machine and a transfer communications machine, a registering mechanism for registering an address and a communications capability of the transfer communications machine, a notifying mechanism for notifying the communications capability of the transfer communications machine registered in the registering mechanism, and a controlling mechanism for instructing the notifying mechanism to notify the sending communications machine of the communications capability at a beginning

Tetsuya KAGAWA, S.N. 09/881,402
Page 42

Dkt. No. 2271/65101

of communications and instructing the communications mechanism to transfer image information received from the sending communications machine to the transfer communications machine using the address stored in the registering mechanism. Each of independent claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61, 65, 82, 84-87, 89, 90, 92-95, 97, 98, 100-103 and 105 addresses these features, as well as additional features.

Shima, as understood by Applicant, proposes a proxy server which converts a first print command written in a first language into a second print command written in a second language, and at least one printer which receives the second print command from the proxy server, interprets the received command, and performs a printing operation. More specifically, Shima proposes a procedure to register a plurality of devices to which the proxy server can transfer resources embedded in a received composite HTML document for rendering. As part of this registration procedure, upon inquiry by the proxy server, each device sends information regarding file formats which can be rendered by that device.

It is contended in the Office Action that Shima (Figure 25 and column 34, lines 2-8) proposes a memory storing a set of image parameters.

Shima, column 33, lines 12-46, states as follows:

In contrast, in a case where the processing proceeds to step 2308, the document analyzer 121 retrieves a device having a renderer corresponding to the file format (e.g., file format C) which cannot be rendered by the printer 81, by reference to a device table such as that shown in FIG. 25 which is registered in the printer 81 beforehand. As shown in FIG. 25, in the device table there are registered identifiers (e.g., IP addresses) of the devices 101, 102, 103, and 104 provided in the same domain where the printer 81 is provided (i.e., within the internal network 170) and file formats which can be rendered by the devices (e.g., extensions of the devices). As a result, if there is a device capable of rendering a file format C within the device table, the processing proceeds to step 2310. If not, the processing proceeds to step 2312.

In a case where the processing proceeds to step 2312, the document analyzer 121 transfers to the renderer 123B an image file, e.g., an image file of a certain picture

Tetsuya KAGAWA, S.N. 09/881,402
Page 43

Dkt. No. 2271/65101

(e.g., a frame picture), in place of the image of the resource. A print image of the image file is also prepared. In contrast, in a case where the processing proceeds to step 2310, *the document analyzer 121 transmits the resource of file format C to the device selected from the device table, by way of the network 170, and requests the device to render the resource* and to send back a result of such rendering. For example, in a case where the file format C is GIF, the GIF resource is sent to the printer 102 compatible with GIF. For example, the printer 102 has a configuration analogous to that shown in FIG. 22. The GIF resource requested by the printer 81 is rendered by means of a corresponding renderer, and a print image resulting from a rendering operation is sent back to the printer 81 by way of the network 170. In step 2311, the document analyzer 121 of the printer 81 receives the print image from the printer 102 and dearchives the print image into memory on a band basis.

Thus, the cited portions of Shima does not refer to image parameters sent from a sending communications machine, and merely proposes that a device downstream to the proxy server communicates its rendering capabilities to the proxy server.

The cited art simply does not teach or suggest a communications terminal apparatus wherein the set of image parameters stored in memory and used along with an address to transfer image information received from a sending communications machine to a transfer communications machine was received from the sending communications machine, as provided by the subject matter of independent claim 8 (as amended) of the present application.

The other cited references do not cure such deficiencies of Shima.

Toyoda '966, as understood by Applicant, proposes an Internet facsimile apparatus which inquires a server the capability of a destination, adapts an image to be suitable to the capability of the destination, and then transmits the image to the destination.

Toyoda '911, as understood by Applicant, proposes a relay apparatus which relays image information from a terminal on a computer network to a facsimile transmission destination on a telephone network, and has a control section for detecting whether the facsimile transmission destination is busy.

Tetsuya KAGAWA, S.N. 09/881,402
Page 44

Dkt. No. 2271/65101

Toyoda '103, as understood by Applicant, proposes an approach for image data communication between an electronic mail apparatus and a facsimile apparatus.

Applicant does not find teaching or suggestion in Toyoda '966, Toyoda '911 or Toyoda '103 of a communications terminal apparatus wherein the set of image parameters stored in memory and used along with an address to transfer image information received from a sending communications machine to a transfer communications machine was received from the sending communications machine, as provided by the subject matter of independent claim 8 (as amended) of the present application.

Independent claims 9, 13, 14, 17, 21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61 and 65 are also patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

The Office Action also acknowledges that Shima does not disclose or suggest a communications terminal apparatus wherein the controlling mechanism is configured to obtain a latest communications capability through the communications mechanism when transferring the image information and to update the registration mechanism with this latest communications capability, as disclosed in claim 8 of the present application.

Toyoda '966 (column 15, lines 44-50, column 17, lines 52-67 and column 18, lines 1-10) was cited as allegedly disclosing this missing element. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In Toyoda '966, as understood by Applicant, the sending Internet facsimile apparatus makes an inquiry to a first (local) server about the capability of a destination apparatus. If the local server has no capability information regarding the destination apparatus, an inquiry is made to a second (external) server to obtain capability information regarding the same destination apparatus. Upon obtaining capability information regarding the destination apparatus, the

Tetsuya KAGAWA, S.N. 09/881,402
Page 45

Dkt. No. 2271/65101

sending Internet facsimile apparatus then creates a suitable image based on the obtained capability information and transmits this image to the destination apparatus via the Internet.

The cited portions of Toyoda '966, merely propose that when the destination information table (storing identification information regarding destination terminals) of a sending Internet facsimile apparatus is updated, an inquiry be made to a second (external) server to update capability information for the destination terminals registered in the destination information table.

In contrast, the communications terminal apparatus of the present disclosure does not make inquiry about capability information to a local or external server, but instead is configured to obtain a latest communications capability through the communications mechanism when transferring the image information and to update the registration mechanism with this latest communications capability, as recited in amended independent claim 8.

As further acknowledged in the Office Action, Shima does not disclose or suggest a communications terminal apparatus wherein the controlling mechanism is configured to transfer the image information with a predetermined identification code causing the transfer communications machine to reproduce an output of the image information into a predetermined recording sheet tray corresponding to the predetermined code, as disclosed in claim 21 of the present application.

Kuga (column 8, lines 47-53 and column 9, lines 1-25) was cited as allegedly disclosing this missing element. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Kuga, as understood by Applicant, proposes a digital copier with a plurality of paper trays, each carrying paper of a particular size, whereby the copier is configured to retrieve paper from a selected paper tray storing paper of a desired size from which to print received data.

Tetsuya KAGAWA, S.N. 09/881,402
Page 46

Dkt. No. 2271/65101

Applicant submits that Kuga simply does not teach or suggest a communications terminal apparatus configured to transfer an image information with a predetermined identification code causing the transfer communications machine to reproduce an output of the image information into a predetermined recording sheet tray corresponding to the predetermined identification code, as disclosed in claim 21 of the present application.

Whereas Kuga is directed to the desirability of preventing a switch to a paper supply tray holding paper with dimensions not specified by the user, the subject matter of claim 21 is directed to the desirability of distinguishing output of image information transferred from the communications terminal apparatus from that of other sources.

Thus, Applicant submits that the combination of Shima and Kuga does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 21. Independent claims 43, 65, 89, 97 and 105 are also patentably distinct from the combination of Shima and Kuga for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 21, 30, 31, 35, 36, 39, 43, 52, 53, 57, 58, 61, 65, 82, 84-87, 89, 90, 92-95, 97, 98, 100-103 and 105 and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

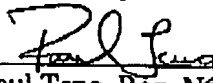
If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Tetsuya KAGAWA, S.N. 09/881,402
Page 47

Dkt. No. 2271/65101

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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